THE SPIRIT OF PARTY.

CHAPTER the SECOND.

CONTAINING THE

FIRST PART

OF THE

HISTORY

OF THE

Knight *of the* Bridge.

Addreſſed to the People *of* IRELAND.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

THE SPIRIT of PARTY.

Chapter the SECOND.

My COUNTRYMEN,

I HAVE already given You a Detail of the many Virtues that were aſcribed to the *Hero* of this Hiſtory, and I alſo promiſed You as impartial an Account of his Faults.

IT is poſſible however that what I have called Faults may bear a milder Epithet, they may with greater Charity be termed Misfortunes, ſince nothing is real Guilt

that is not intentionally Evil; for it is granted that 'till his Head began to be a little turned, He had one of the beſt Hearts upon Earth.

WHEN it is barely ſaid of a Man that *his Head is turned*, we are not to underſtand that he is either a *Maniac* or a *Lunatic*. The vulgar Expreſſions of *a wrong Turn*, *a ſhake in the Brain*, that ſuch a One *is not himſelf*, or is lately *beſide himſelf*, or is *not his own Man*, are merely intended as Expreſſions of Reſpect and Compliment to great Conquerors, great Politicians, great Projectors, great Poets, and in ſhort to all great Geniuſes of all Kinds and Denominations; for the very Terms, that thus divide a Man from himſelf, admit or rather affirm that the ſecond Man is adventitious and foreign to the firſt, that he is an Exotic and not of the Growth or Nature of his Fellow; they admit, alſo, that this double Man may be reclaimed to his original Unity, by a Regimen which may be called the Method of Reduction, as when, after thin Diet, Caſti-

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gation, and the Purgeing of Redundancies, we ſay ſuch a One *is brought to himſelf or is his own Man again.*

THE Syſtem of ſuch a Man's Intellects, may be compared to ſeveral other Syſtems of Society, where, both the legiſlative and executive Powers continue as ſtrong as ever, and the only Fault to be found in the whole Buſineſs is ſimply this, *that they have perverted the Purpoſes for which they were deſigned;* ſo that the Remedy, in either Caſe, for a *crazy Underſtanding*, or a *crazy Conſtitution*, is *to bring them back to a Senſe of their firſt Principles.*

THE Power of Intoxication, either by *Greatneſs* or *good Liquor*, is happily inſtanced in the following Story.

A VERY worthy Patriot in the Reign of King *John*, took a Cup or ſo extraordinary among his Dependents, and ſitting down to write of public Affairs, when the Fumes of Wine or Ambition had given a new Appearance to the Nature of Things, He, firſt, at all adventures, ſet down the

Word

word *Loyalty*, where nothing but *Office* could poſſibly be intended. In the next place He thrice repeated, *my Country! my Country!* where the Context barely meant *a few particular Friends*. He took the like Liberties with the Term *Conſtitution*, where all Readers agreed that *Cabal* was underſtood. He did great Wrong to a ſignificant Monoſyllable called *Jobb*, by phraſeing it at large *the Intereſt of the Public*. Laſtly, where he ſhould have ended with the word *Community*, he cloſed his Letter by writing *his own Name* in CAPITALS.

But, not altogether to loſe our way, by deviating ſo far from our Aim and our Moral, I think it incumbent to return to a few Particulars, that ſhall ſerve as ſo many Maſters of the Ceremonies, to introduce our *Hero* on the Stage of the great World, and to account for his being intitled the *Knight of the Bridge*, by which Stile he hath been univerſally celebrated as the moſt proweſſed of Knights, for perſonal Atchievements, of any hitherto to be

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met with either in the Hiſtories or Romances of that there Country.

FROM the Records of the above Society we learn, that the Manſion-Houſe in which their Lord reſided was ſituated at a Diſtance in the Chief of his Manors, and that a deep Water divided the People we ſpeak of from all his other Manors, Lordſhips, and Chiefries.

TO remedy this Inconvenience, a handſome Bridge was erected at the public Expence, and this Bridge was intended for a free Intercourſe or Conveyance, whereby all Rents, Duties, and Addreſſes were to paſs from this People to their Lord, and all Offices, Employments, and Favours from this Lord to his ſaid People.

ONCE, in every two or three Years or thereabout, the Lord uſed to ſend ſome one or other of his Stewards, to collect the Rents, inſpect the Affairs, and ſettle the Accounts of the ſaid Manor; and here it is to be noted, that this Steward could not

not enter the ſaid Manor, but by the aforeſaid Bridge, neither was there any other Paſſage whereby he might return to his own Country, on which occaſion, he generally carried with him ſome Matter of perſonal Compliment from the Inhabitants of the Manor, either a few Fruits of the Seaſon, or Rarities of the Climate, though Some have been accuſed of exacting uncommon Agency; and Others, who happened to be there in ſheering time, are ſaid have carried away the Fleeces of half the Flock.

I AM not inſenſible, that in writing the Hiſtory of a Country ſo diſtant and an Age ſo very remote, in treating of Cuſtoms and Manners ſo intirely different from any practiſed in this improved and poliſhed World of ours; though I have the Concurrence of Record and Tradition to ſupport me, and Vouchers as authentick as voluminous to atteſt every Particular of the enſuing Narration, they yet may fall vaſtly ſhort of the Credit that is due to them; as it muſt be natural for People to doubt

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and diſpute Things which they will find altogether impoſſible to be applied to any Perſon or Object with which they are now converſant throughout the Extent of this habitable Globe.

HOWEVER, it is the Glory of an honeſt Hiſtorian, rather to ſet down Facts than ſolicit Opinions; his Duty is to inform, not to perſwade; his way is to walk on, hand in hand with Truth, and not to ſcout here and there in Search of Believers.

A FEW Years, as Hiſtory ſays, before our Hero was elected to the diſtinguiſhing Honour and Office of Seneſchal of the ſaid Manor, the Lord appointed a new and very particular Steward, as it were in his own Perſon, to inſpect, and conduct, and redreſs the Affairs of the Inhabitants thereof.

THIS Steward, from his early Youth, had enjoyed the intire Confidence and chief Truſts of his Maſter. Though his Manners were poliſhed, they were however ſin-

cere, and he had been long thought of and ſpoke of too as a plain walking Man in his own Country, as a Man who had no Windings or Doublings in his Ways; People had often gone about him and about him again, but could not find where they might faſten upon him, ſo that the Lurchers quitted their Station in Search of freſh Game, and no One attempted to give him the Palm or the Squeeze.

It was ſaid that ſome of his Anceſ- had been great Clarks in their Time, and had penned a Number of ingenious Things; and that he himſelf was a Lover and an Encourager alſo of the like Gifts and Talents in other Men.

Yet, neither was it for theſe Qualities, not yet for Thoſe, that he was ſo loved by the Good and revered by the Evil. It was, in that they looked upon him as the only Steward of his Maſter who made *Politics* and *State Truſts* to conſiſt in *common Senſe* and *Honeſty*, whereby he became a Link that kindly connected

connected the *Prerogative* of his Lord with the *Intereſt* of the People.

THAT Fame, which precedes Virtue, had already prepared the Way of this Man to his Stewardſhip, and he paſſed the ſaid Bridge, for the firſt time, without any manner of Lett or Interruption. The People received him with a Gladneſs that was full of Expectation; the young Men and Maidens put on their ſingle holliday Suit; and ſuch an Apparatus had been made for his Entertainment, as a Shew-Man prepares for the Reception of his Audience, when the Tinſel of his Puppets and the Paintings of his Scenery conceal the Dirt and Drearineſs of ſome Barn that lies behind.

HIS Eye was too piercing to be deceived by ſuch Appearances; he pitied the Poverty, but had Reſpect to the kind Meaning of this ſimple though innocent People. He ſtudied how to do them a Variety of good Offices, and received pleaſing Returns of ſincere Thanks and Gratitude. He adviſed

with them upon Means of turning their Moors and barren Heaths into firm and profitable Grounds, and he recommended to them the Method of propogating and manufacturing a certain Kind of Weed, whereby they might at once be enabled to put Shirts upon their Backs and Money in their Pockets.

HAVING acquired the Acquaintance of the Chiefs of the Society, and gained, as one would imagine, the lasting good Will of every Member thereof; on his Departure, he left them his Son as a Pledge of his Affection, whom he put to be instructed to the Grammar School of their Manor, though there was a Power of good Schools in his own Country; and, taking his Farewell, he refused the smallest Acknowledgement of all these Benefits, neither carried with him a single Fleece of all the Flock, that had many a time bleated to his Predecessors for Pasture, and had as often returned empty, plucked, or shorne.

As he had parted with Regret, he, ſome time after, returned with pleaſure; he again paſſed the ſaid Bridge without Oppoſition, and was received with univerſal Greeting and Acclamation.

In his Abſence, the Seneſchal of the Manor Court had died, and, on his Return, the Hero of this Hiſtory was unanimouſly choſen.

At firſt he declined this weighty Commiſſion, and gracefully avowed that he was unequal to the Taſk; at length he ſubmitted, though with Backwardneſs and Reluctance, as appears by a Speech, which he made on this high Occaſion, full of a becoming Modeſty and Diffidence, and wherein he declared, and engaged to the ſaid Steward, that he would conſider the Intereſt of his Lord and of his Country as one Building equally raiſed upon the ſame Foundation, as one Stable and beautiful Structure, that ſhould at all times point and terminate every

every Proſpect, in every Step and Progreſs that he ſhould take throughout Life.

It was undoubtedly from the Behaviour of our Hero, at this Period, that an ancient Bard borrowed a very memorable Obſervation, which he hath applied to the ſimilary Manners of *Ceſar*,

For Lowlineſs is young Ambition's Ladder,
Whereto the Climber upward turns his Face;
But when he once attains the topmoſt Round,
He then unto the Ladder turns his Back,
Looks in the Clouds, and ſcorns the baſe Degrees
By which he did aſcend.

However, the Brightneſs of our Hero's Ambition did not ſuddenly break forth, it roſe upon the People like a gradual Dawning, and all Eyes were thereby the better prepared and enabled to ſupport its Mid-day Luſtre.

For while this good Steward continued in place, Nothing dared to appear in public that wore a malignant Aſpect.

Indeed, if goodneſs were not a Subject quite foreign to our preſent Pen, if it were not too inconſiderable at this juncture of times to claim the Attention of a People ſo much better employed, I could fill a large Volume with the Virtues of this ſame Steward, and with Extracts of the Benefits he conferred on this People, all taken from the authentic Records of their Manor.

I could relate, how he firſt taught them the public Uſe of Arithmetic, and the Method of calling their Officers and Agents to Account, a Thing, for many many Years before his Time, either unknown or neglected in that Country.

For, as he obſerved to the Inhabitants, Beggars continue Beggars, from Generation to Generation, on the *three grand Principles* of their ancient Eſtabliſhment, *Lazineſs*,

neſs, *Profuſion*, and *Neglect of Accounts*; on the *Firſt*, as they alledge, for want of Encouragement to Labour; on the *Second*, inaſmuch as they have little worth ſaving; and on the *Third*, as they have Nothing that can merit their Care.

I COULD relate, how he laboured to reform the ſaid beggarly Eſtabliſhment; how, during the three Periods of his memorable Stewardſhip, a new Aſpect, from his Patronage, ſpread over the Land; how he changed the *ſauntring Staff* into the *Flail*, and the *Clout* into the *Kerchief*; how he looked on the ſaid Manor as a Nurſery of his Planting, and accordingly determined to cheriſh, to cultivate, and preſerve it; how oft his Departure was deprecated, how oft his Return implored; how he changed not his Affections with the change of Place; how he addreſſed the ſaid Lord in Behalf of his ſaid People, how he urged every Plea, how he ſollicited every Suit, and continued their Patron and Interceſſor to the end; and how he prevailed on the ſaid Lord and on his numerous Houſhold to furniſh *Back*, *Bed*,

Bed, and *Board*, with the Vegetable manufactured by the ſaid Society, which Cuſtom and Encouragement may, for aught I know, be practiſed at this Day, and (if the Poſterity of ſuch a People now remain upon Earth) muſt derive all their Benefits from the ſame kind Original.

But, I hurry to the Expectation and Impatience of my Reader, I grudge even to ſuch Goodneſs this ſlight Touch of Approbation, and fly to the Hero and the Darling of my Tale.

THINK not, O haſty Reader, that, during this tedious Adminiſtration of Virtue, our *Knight* was a whit leſs impatient than thyſelf; he longed to be out of Check and Controul, from under the Awe of ſuperior Genius: He turned from the Paths he had formerly trodden, and looking a different way, new Viſtas began to open, and new Scenes to expand.

WONDERFUL were the Projects, and ſtupendous were the Works that now roſe

within his Plan of future Operations: But well and wiſely he reflected that ſuch extraordinary Machinations could not be effected by ordinary Means.

Wherefore, provident of many and mighty Purpoſes, during the Receſs of Miſchief in the ſaid Steward's Adminiſtration, he ſat down, and applied himſelf to the Knowledge and Uſe of *Simples*, and thence gradually aſcended to the ſublimer Study of *Chymiſtry*. Of theſe Sciences he encompaſſed both the Height and Profundity, and became the greateſt *Adept* of all *State-Empyrics*; till having collected, and mingled, and again ſeparated, and ſorted, and fermented, and digeſted, and precipitated, and reduced, and exhaled, and ſublimed, both the Eſſences and Quinteſſences of a due Number of Specifics derived from certain Portions of Houſes, and Lands, and Truſts, and Commiſſions, and Advowſons, and Penſions, and Grants, and Perquiſites, and Emoluments, and Redundancies, and Rights, and Wrongs, *&c.*

&c.

&c. &c. he extracted from the Whole his *three grand Arcana.*

THE firſt he intitled his *Catholicum preparativum*, which, however, was not to be ſwallowed either full or faſting; it was intended as a *Love-Charm* to win and ſeduce Affection, and operated in the way of Sympathy or inviſible Attraction.

IN this View, he had been at the Glaſs-Houſe, and had provided himſelf with an infinite Number of tranſparent Bubbles equally light and hollow with thoſe that ſwim upon the Surface of a falling Stream. As they would ſcarce abide the Touch, when his aforeſaid Ingredients were in their State of Fermentation, he, with much Tenderneſs and Delicacy, held One of thoſe glaſſy Bubbles over the Fume; as ſoon as he perceived it to be duly impregnated, he put his Mouth to the ſmall Opening, and having powerfully enforced his Breath, he cloſed the Orifice hermetically, and laid it by for Uſe.

Of these he made many Experiments, even during the irksome Residence of the above mentioned Steward. He wou'd privately call a Patient into his Closet, and, having presented him with one of these *hollow Preparatives*, he admonished him to keep it at all Times about him, and to preserve it with all possible Secrecy and Care.

Incredibly sudden and amazing was the Effect of this powerful *Arcanum* upon the attentive Patient; his Heart instantly caught an unusual Palpitation, his Eyes kindled, his Countenance glowed, he exulted, and crept, and leaped aloft, and licked the Dust, and seized a Hand, and protested, and skipped about, and swore, and ran out, and trumpeted the Beauty of our Hero throughout the Manor.

His second *Arcanum* he intitled *Catholicum datum*. This was a real *Bolus*, and comprehended an essential Portion of some Particulars of the above Ingredients. It was intended as a sure Preservative of the Affections already captivated by his *Catholicum*

licum preparativum: But, as the Materials came dear, he could yet a while administer thereof but sparingly; and in the end he experienced that this his second *Prescription* often served to dissolve the Charm of that Attraction which he never failed to effect by his first Specific.

His third *Arcanum* he intitled his *grand Elixir*, it was the Quintessence of all the said Ingredients put together, then dissolved, and then refined, and then sublimed in a new Alembic.

This he held to be answerable to, and an Improvement upon, that ever estimated Nostrum the *Balsamum Fier-e-Bras*, composed by his great Ancestor, of never dying Memory, *the Knight of the Mancha*.

With respect to this his *summum Catholicum*, it was his Custom to boast to his Friends, in private, that it mattered not what Gashes, or Welts, or Bruises, or Maims, he might at any time give to the old W--------re his Country, inasmuch as, with three Drops of this *sovereign Drug*, he

he could make Her younger, and freſher, and ſtauncher than ever.

SCARCE had the aforeſaid Steward, for the third time, reviſited the Land of his Nativity, when--------But here want of Time and Paper cuts me ſhort, and barely alloweth a Taſte of all that Affluence and Elegance which I have provided for the future Entertainment of my Readers.

OF our *Knight's* firſt Excurſion; how he got Poſſeſſion of the aforeſaid *Bridge*; the *Redoubts* and *Fortifications* which he erected thereon; the *diving Pond* which he cauſed to be dug at the End thereof; the Adventures of the *whiſpering Galleries*; the *Plays* which he invented for the Exerciſe and Amuſement of himſelf and his Aſſociates; his many *Atchievements Feats* and *Pranks* as pleaſant as ſurpriſing; the approach of his dread Antagoniſt the *fair Knight in the black Armour*; and the firſt never to be forgotten *Battle of the ſaid Bridge*, ſhall be related at large in the following Chapters.

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End of the ſecond Chapter.